PURCHASING OF DRILLING RIGS BY MECL

*323. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Indian Express of 10th December, 1993 under the caption "multi-crore purchase scam in MECL";

(b) if so, what are the details relating to the purchase of drilling rigs worth over Rs. 3.27 crores by the Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd.;

(c) whether it is a fact that certain officials of the Corporation have been accused for abusing their official position as members of the Purchase Advisory Committee to cause wrongful loss to MECL and if so, what are the details in this regard;

(d) what are the names of these officials; and

(e) what are the details of enquiry, if any, held against the officials of the MECL in this deal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Orders for purchase of 29 drill machines and certain tools and accessories amounting to Rs. 3.36 crores were placed by MECL during January-February, 1990.

(c) to (e) On a complaint alleging that certain officials of MECL have misused their official position in the matter of placement of purchase orders, the matter was referred by the Government to CBI for enquiry. The CBI on the basis of preliminary enquiry filed an FIR against the following seven officials of the company :—

1. Shri R. M. Sharma, General Manager (Materials), MECL.
2. Shri D. S. Reddy, Ex-General Manager (Drilling), MECL.
3. Shri N. K. Chatterjee, General Secretary, MECEU (GSI employee).
4. Shri M. P. Datar, Ex-Chief Manager (F&A), MECL.
5. Shri B. P. Sinha, Chief Drilling Engineer, MECL.
6. Shri R. S. Kulkarni, Manager (F&A), MECL; and
7. Shri M. S. Nagar, Ex-Director (Tech.), MECL presently CMD, Indian Rare Earths Ltd., Bombay.

RECOVERY TO BE MADE BY BALCO FROM PURCHASERS OF ITS PRODUCTS

*324. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total amount to be recovered by the BALCO from the purchasers of its products ;

(b) whether it is a fact that some purchasers submitted fake bank guarantees to the BALCO, Korba and obtained materials ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the BALCO, Korba is planning to hand-over the Gandhamardhan Bauxite Project to the Private Sector after spending Rupees 42 crores on it ; and

(d) Whether it is also a fact that the bauxite deposits at Amarkantak and Phutka Pahar got exhausted and BALCO is not exploiting to develop the Mainpat area where the deposits of Bauxite is in sufficient quantity and the 900 workers who are sitting without work due to closure of above two mines can be deployed there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) :

(a) The total amount recoverable from the purchasers by Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) as on 1-12-1993 is Rs. 55.76 crores.

(b) During December, 1992, BALCO's Banker informed that some of the LCs opened by the Units of Nikin Group, one of the customers, were defective. While LCs opened by the customer's Bank were duly honoured in the past, it subsequently refused to honour them. On coming to know this BALCO Management ordered a fact finding inquiry in the matter and pending inquiry, the concerned officials were shifted from their respective positions. Based on the outcome of the fact finding inquiry a vigilance inquiry has been instituted.

(c) Government of India has approved the abandonment of the Gandhamardan Bauxite Project and write off the total expenditure of Rs. 34.15 crores subject to recovery of such amount as may be possible.

(d) The bauxite deposits in the two captive mines at Amarkantak and Phulpahar are getting fast depleted. Mining Lease has been obtained for Mainpat Mine and the developmental mining has started. The Company proposes to re-deploy some of the skilled personnel of the above two mines in the Mainpat Mine in a phased manner and the remaining manpower will be re-deployed in the other areas of the Company to the extent possible.

सहकारी आवास समितियों के लिये भूमि की कीमत में वृद्धि

0325. **डा. जितेन्द्र कुमार जैन :**
श्री वीरेन जे. शाह :

क्या शहरी विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:--

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा द्वारिका आवास परियोजना के तहत सहकारी आवास समितियों के लिए भूमि की कीमत वर्ष 1988 से 425 रुपए प्रति वर्ग मीटर घोषित की गयी थी और बाद में इसे बढ़ाकर 975 रुपए प्रति वर्ग मीटर तथा अन्तिम रूप से इस भूमि की कीमत 1861.65 रुपए प्रति वर्ग मीटर निर्धारित की गयी है ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि भूमि की कीमतों में भारी वृद्धि किए जाने के कारण सहकारी आवास समितियों द्वारा भूमि क्रय करने से इंकार कर दिया गया है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो पंजीकृत सहकारी आवास समितियों की संख्या कितनी और उनमें से कितनी समितियां इस मूल्य पर भूमि लेने के लिए तैयार हैं; और

(घ) क्या यह भी सच है कि अनेक समितियों ने भूमि की पूर्व निर्धारित कीमत के अनुसार राशि जमा की थी; यदि हां, तो वे समितियां कौन-कौन सी हैं और उनमें से कौन-कौन सी समितियां ऐसी हैं जिन्होंने भूमि की कीमतें अधिक होने के कारण अपनी जमा राशि वापस करने का आग्रह कर दिया है ?

शहरी विकास मंत्री (श्रीमती शीला कौल) : (क) दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण ने बताया है कि 1989 तक द्वारका में कोई आवंटन नहीं किया गया था । वर्ष 1990 में, पश्चिम जोन के लिए दरें 975 रुपए प्रति मीटर तय की गई थीं और वे द्वारका परियोजना पर भी लागू थीं। वर्ष 1992-93 में, सरकार ने 1650-65 रुपए प्रति वर्ग मीटर की निर्धारण-पूर्व दर अधिसूचित की और दर सरकार द्वारा वर्ष 1993-94 के लिए 1801.65 रुपए प्रति वर्ग मीटर कर दी गई है ।

(ख) और (ग) प्राधिकरण के अनुसार वर्ष 1993 में लगभग 1400 समितियां पंजीकृत हुई । कितनी समितियां भूमि की कीमत जमा करने के बाद अन्ततः कब्जा लेंगी, इसके बारे में अभी कुछ कहना संभव नहीं है । किन्तु अक्तूबर-नवम्बर, 1992 में जिन 257 समितियों को भूमि की पेशकश की गयी थी, उनमें से 149 समितियों ने प्राधिकरण की पेशकश मान ली है ।